

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9063

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USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 3429

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF ML NG

SUBJECT: NIGER-MALI RELATIONS-MALIAN NOMADS

REF: BAMAKO 3477

1. WE ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH YOUR ANALYSIS REGARDING REASONS FOR PRESENCE LARGE NUMBERS MALI NOMADS IN NIGER. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME MALIAN TUAREGS IN NIGER AS QUOTE REFUGEES UNQUOTE SINCE THE REBELLION IN EARLY SIXTIES, MOST OF THE MALIEN NOMADS CURRENTLY IN COUNTRY ARE HERE DIRECTLY AS RESULT OF DROUGHT. THEY BEGAN COMING WHEN WORD SPREAD THAT THERE WAS FOOD AND MEDICAL AID IN NIGER FOR MALI NOMADS AS RESULT OF GON DECISION TO HAND OVER TO RED CROSS AND PRIVATE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS CARE OF NON-NIGERIENS. WHILE LEVEL OF CARE MEAGER AND OFTEN INADEQUATE, IT WAS PROBABLY MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT WAS AVAILABLE TO THEM AT THAT TIME THROUGHOUT MOST OF SIXTH REGION OF MALI.

2. WITH IMPROVED CONDITIONS IN CAMPS SIXTH REGION,
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FLOW INTO NIGER OF MALIEN NOMADS HAS DECREASED
SIGNIFICANTLY OVER PAST SIX MONTHS. MOST OF THOSE

ALREADY HERE HOWEVER ARE STILL RELUCTANT TO GO BACK
AND SO FAR MALI GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS (ENCOURAGED BY
GON) TO INDUCE NOMADS RETURN HAVE MET WITH LITTLE
SUCCESS. WE BELIEVE REASON MOST MALIENS PREFER TO
REMAIN HERE IS THAT WHILE CONDITIONS OF MALI CAMPS
HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED, THEY MAY NOT BE MUCH BETTER
THAN THOSE THEY ARE ALREADY IN. IN MAKING COMPARISONS
ANOTHER POPFT MENTIONED TO US IS THAT WHILE MALIEN CAMPS
APPEARENTLY PRESENT NEATER AND BETTER ORDERED APPEARANCE
THAN SIMILAR NIGER CAMPS, INDIVIDUALISTIC MALIEN TUAREGS
OBJECT TO REGIMENTATION AND DISCIPLINE REQUIRED TO
MAINTAIN THESE WELL-RUN CAMPS AND PREFER LESS STRUCTURED,
MORE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE OF PROBABLY POORER RUN NIGER
CAMPS. ALSO THE NOMADS UNDOUBTEDLY STILL RECALL THEIR
DESPERATE CONDITIONS OF TW YEARS AGO AND THE MALI GOVERN-
MENT'S ORIGINAL RESPONSE TO THEIR PLIGHT.HECK

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